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At Swearing-In Ceremony at White House

The Secretary's Ladies All Were Present

By Winzola McLendon

"YOU WANT to call it off?" Tom Gates jokingly asked Neil McElroy. The tall, six-foot-four former Secretary shook his head. Then, as if on cue, President Eisenhower stepped into the White House conference room and Thomas Sovereign Gates Jr. was sworn in as the seventh Secretary of Defense.

It was a gay crowd that gathered yesterday to see the affable Tom Gates take his oath of office. And, there was a lot of banter before and after the solemn ceremony.

"First come, first served," called Tom Gates (who, incidentally really is tall, dark and handsome), as photographers and reporters dashed into the room, jockeying for position.

Spotting Neil McElroy, who resigned Monday as Secretary of Defense, Gates asked, "Want to swap? P. and G.'s O.K." (Former Secretary McElroy, who left a \$285,000 annual job as president of Proctor and Gamble to come to the Defense Department, will—according to rumor—be the next chairman of the board of P. and G.)

"We've joined the great army of the unemployed," quipped Mrs. McElroy. Although he said he was off the payroll the former Secretary wasn't worried. Yesterday, a friend in Tucson

wired him offering a loan until after Christmas.

LINED UP with Secretary Gates for a picture taking session were the handsome Gates women—Mrs. Gates (a tall brunette who wore a chic oxford grey wool suit and tiny figured chapeau) and their three daughters. Eighteen-year-old Kathe (wearing a raspberry-red suit) took a day off from her studies at Foxcroft to be there. Anne, who is Mrs. Joseph Ponce, of Rumson, N. J., wore bright blue wool. And, Patty, who is Mrs. William Norris of Mt. Kisco, N. Y., was dressed in a smart muted green suit.

Nearby stood the Secretary's stepmother, Mrs.

Thomas S. Gates Sr., of Philadelphia, her son, James A. Waller of Hingham, Mass., and the two Gates sons-in-law, Joseph Ponce and William Norris.

"This is my first boss," Secretary Gates told his family when Secretary of the Treasury Robert B. Anderson stepped up to offer his congratulations. (Anderson was Secretary of the Navy when Gates was Under Secretary in 1953.)

On hand were all the service secretaries—Wilber Brucker from the Army, the Navy's William B. Franke, and James Douglas of the Air Force who, according to those in the know, will succeed Gates as Deputy Secretary.

OUTSTANDING in their gold braided and starred uniforms were the military heads, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Nathan Twining, Chief of Naval Operations Arleigh Burke, Air Force Chief of Staff Thomas White, Army Chief of Staff L. L. Lemnitzer, and Commandant of the Marine Corps Randolph McC. Pate.

Franklin Lincoln, who later in the afternoon was sworn in as Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), was in the crowd, as were the President's son, Maj. John Eisenhower; Director of CIA Allen Dulles, three of the Gates' "old friends," Mrs. Emil Geyelin and Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Lloyd; Assistant to the

President, "Jerry" Persons, and Murray Snyder from the Defense Department.

From the White House, the Gates family went over to the Pentagon to a "family only" luncheon in the Secretary of Defense's private dining room.

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